

A NEW BOLIVIAN SPECIES OF *ALOYSIA* (VERBENACEAE)

Guy L. Nesom

Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78713 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

A new species of *Aloysia*, *A. arcuifolia*, is described from Bolivia in South America.

KEY WORDS: *Aloysia*, Verbenaceae, Bolivia, South America

Aloysia arcuifolia Nesom, *sp. nov.* TYPE: BOLIVIA. Depto. Potosí, Vallea de Palqui, 3500 m, suelo limo-arenoso, pH 6.4, 7 Feb 1987, *R. Ehrlich 339* (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; Isotype: LPB).

Species foliis aliquanto arcuatis 3-verticillatis, spicis brevibus, bracteolis calyces aequantibus, et calycibus brevibus dense glandiferis minute strigosisque a congeneribus diversa.

Subshrubs to 2.5 m tall; stems reddish brown, deeply grooved, sparsely strigulose with stiff hairs 0.2-0.3 mm long. Leaves mostly in whorls of 3, opposite near the apex, on a swollen saccate petiole 1 mm long, the blades narrowly oblong-lanceolate, entire, 2.5-4.5 mm wide, 20-30 mm long, rounded-acute at the apex, spreading arcuate to slightly deflexed, densely granular glandular beneath and sparsely strigose on the midvein, the upper surfaces lustrous, strigose-hirsute with hairs 0.2-0.3 mm long, arising from pustulate bases. Inflorescence of numerous, ascending, axillary spikes, the rachis 7-17 mm long, with flowers mostly clustered toward the apex; bractlets ovate-attenuate, equal or slightly longer than the calyces, sparsely glandular compared to the calyces. Calyx 1.2-1.6 mm long, densely granular glandular and strigulose-hirtellous, the lobes deltate, purplish. Corollas light blue, the tube 2.5-3.0 mm long, densely and evenly puberulous to minutely strigillose, granular glandular at the throat, the lobes hairy abaxially and adaxially.

Aloysia arcuifolia Nesom is distinctive within the genus in its high elevation habitat, somewhat arcuate leaves in whorls of three, its short spikes, very short calyces with densely glandular and minutely strigose vestiture, and bractlets equaling the length of the calyx. Most of the species of *Aloysia*

have densely pilose-hirsute calyces. The remaining taxa produce calyces with greatly reduced vestiture, varying from closely puberulent to short strigose. While these latter species may not form a natural group, they are easily distinguished from those with stiffly spreading calycine vestiture. The only other species of *Aloysia* described from Bolivia, *A. beckii* Mold. and *A. boliviensis* Mold., both produce hirsute calycine vestiture and differ from *A. arcuifolia* in other features as well. Both occur at significantly lower elevations. Among other species in the genus with reduced vestiture, *A. fiebrigii* (Hayek) Mold. and *A. triphylla* (L'Her.) Britton both occur in Perú, although the latter is found in many other areas as well. Both of these species, however, have significantly longer calyces than *A. arcuifolia* and qualitatively different vestiture.

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